

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

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R 060701Z JUL 75

FM AMEMBASSY JIDDA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1786

INFO AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY DOHA

AMEMBASSY KUWAIT

AMEMBASSY MANAMA

AMEMBASSY MUSCAT

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMCONSUL DHAHRAN

C O N F I D E N T I A L JIDDA 4843

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, SA, IR

SUBJECT: PRINCE FAHD'S VISIT TO IRAN

REF: A. TEHRAN 6435; B. JIDDA 4220

1. ON JULY 5 WE DISCUSSED CROWN PRINCE FAHD'S JULY 1-3 VISIT TO IRAN WITH AHMED SIRAJ, DIRECTOR OF AFTICAN AND ASIAN AFFAIRS AT THE FOREIGN MINISTRY. HE WAS THE ONLY SENIOR FONMIN OFFICIAL OTHER THAN MINSTATE PRINCE SAUD TO MAKE THE TRIP AND WAS THE SAUDI OFFICIAL WHO NEGOTIATED THE FINAL LANGUAGE OF THE JOINT COMMUNIQUE WITH HIS IRANIAN COUNTERPARTS. HE DESCRIBED THE VISIT AS A GREAT SUCCESS, SPLENDIDLY ARRANGED BY THE IRANIANS, AND TAKING PLACE IN A FRIENDLY ATMOSPHERE.

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2. SIRAJ SAID THAT THERE WERE USEFUL DISCUSSIONS ON

THE GENERAL SUBJECT OF GULF SECURITY WHICH RESULTED IN SUBSTANTIAL AGREEMENT IN PRINCIPLE. SIRAJ SAID THAT THE COMMUNIQUE LANGUAGE ON THE GULF, VIZ. "AN AREA OF SECURITY, PEACE AND STABILITY AND FREE OF ANY FOREIGN INTERVENTION...(AND)...FREE OF FOREIGN BASES," REFERRED TO AMERICAN INSTALLATIONS IN BAHRAIN AS WELL AS TO SOVIET INSTALLATIONS IN IRAQ. TO OUR SURPRISE HE SAID THAT THE STATEMENT REFERRED ALSO TO US BASES IN IRAN. WHEN WE REMARKED THAT TO OUR KNOWLEDGE WE HAD NO BASES IN IRAN, SIRAJ SAID THAT THE COMMUNIQUE COVERED US COMMUNICATIONS FACILITIES THERE.

3. WHILE THERE WAS NOT APPARENTLY ANY MAJOR DISAGREEMENT IN THE POLITICAL FIELD, THE SAUDIS WERE NOT AS ENTHUSIASTIC AS THE IRANIANS WISHED ON THE SUBJECT OF A GULF SECURITY CONFERENCE. SIRAJ SAID THAT THE IRANIAN SIDE HAD TRIED RATHER HARD TO HAVE LANGUAGE INSERTED IN THE COMMUNIQUE ENDORSING THE EARLY HOLDING OF A GULF SECURITY CONFERENCE. THE SAUDIS HAD DEMURRED. THEY MAINTAINED THAT THERE SHOULD BE COMPLETE AGREEMENT WORKED OUT IN BILATERAL CONTACTS BEFORE ANY SUCH CONFERENCE IS HELD. SIRAJ COMMENTED THAT ONLY IN THIS WAY WOULD IT BE POSSIBLE TO ENSURE THAT THE SMALLER GULF STATES DO NOT FIND THEMSELVES AT A CONFERENCE WHERE THEY ARE INTIMIDATED INTO ACCEPTING POSITIONS WITH WHICH THEY DO NOT AGREE.

4. SIRAJ DID NOT APPEAR TO BE AWARE OF THE DETAILS OF THE DISCUSSIONS WHICH HAD GONE ON RELATING TO PETROLEUM AND OTHER ECONOMIC MATTERS, BUT HE DID COMMENT THAT THE VIEWS OF SAUDI ARABIA AND IRAN ON THE SUBJECT OF THE PRODUCER CONSUMER DIALOGUE HAD BEEN HARMONIZED.

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